

THE TRAGEDY OF THE TULSA
GREENWOOD MASSACRE

SPEECH OF

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 2021

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Commemoration of the Tulsa-Greenwood Race Massacre, where on May 31–June 1, 1921, a white mob of thousands of people shot and murdered Black residents of America's "Black Wall Street" in Tulsa, Oklahoma, looted their homes and businesses, and burned more than a thousand homes, churches, schools, and businesses. The horrific events of this deadly attack were the result of a series of failures of leadership that ultimately fostered race-based violence, discrimination, and oppression.

This was a failure of law enforcement to protect Tulsa's Black residents and maintain civil order. A failure of the judicial system, as many of the residents who fled the Massacre were detained in internment camps immediately following the Massacre and a grand jury placed the blame entirely on the Black community and indicted 85 people—mostly African Americans—with Massacre-related offenses. A failure of our American promises of the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Justice was not served. No White person was ever held individually accountable for crimes committed during the Massacre, and the vast majority of survivors and their descendants were never directly compensated for these harms.

The attack on the thriving Black community continued on throughout the years and is evident even in today's society; as the community sustained millions of dollars of property damage and many Black survivors of the Tulsa massacre and their descendants have not been able to recoup the wealth that had been stolen or destroyed during the Massacre. And still today, despite calls for justice and accountability, our government leaders continue to fail the victims of the Tulsa-Greenwood Massacre and their descendants by refusing action to right the wrongs that were perpetrated on innocent community members 100 years ago. Over the decades, local ordinances to prevent rebuilding, redlining, and so-called "urban renewal" policies have prevented Black Tulsans from rebuilding a thriving community. Expressways, funded by the federal government, literally cut through areas of Greenwood, displacing Black families and businesses.

Madam Speaker, though we are 100 years past the heinous Tulsa-Greenwood Massacre, Black Americans are unfortunately not far removed from the continued injustice of systemic racism and oppressive tactics that block upward mobility out of poverty and suppress opportunities to create and maintain generational wealth. As we take time to recall the injustice of this Massacre and continue the call for justice for the descendants, let us also reflect on the continued efforts of injustice that plague minority communities today. We need accountability, we need economic justice, and we need criminal justice reform. We cannot continue to delay justice and equality. The time for change is now.

HONORING DOCTOR STEPHEN
PLYMATE AS THE RECIPIENT OF
THE 2020 WILLIAM S. MIDDLETON
AWARD

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Doctor Stephen Plymate on being the 2020 recipient of the William S. Middleton Award for outstanding scientific contributions and achievements in the areas of biomedical and bio-behavioral research relevant to the healthcare of Veterans. This prestigious award is the highest honor given by the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development Service.

Doctor Plymate, a veteran himself, is an endocrinologist at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System and associate director of the Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center. He is credited with scientific breakthroughs that identified the biological mechanism underlying lethal, castration-resistant prostate cancer. Prostate cancer cells can become resistant to a common form of treatment and Doctor Plymate's discovery identified why traditional therapies have failed and spurred innovation for newer, potentially more effective therapies.

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Veterans, and over 500,000 known Veterans are currently battling this disease. Doctor Plymate's research will save the lives of countless Veterans and civilians alike. Once again, the Puget Sound VA has recruited the brightest and produced research that will revolutionize medicine.

Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Doctor Stephen Plymate's on his groundbreaking research and being the well-deserved recipient of the 2020 Middleton Award.

ANTONIO ESQUIBEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Antonio Esquibel, a Northglenn, Colo. City Councilmember, former Mayor, a Vietnam Veteran, and a great Coloradan.

Mr. Esquibel has been a resident and a staple in the Northglenn community for more than a decade, during which time he has dedicated much of his time and energy into serving his community and fellow neighbors. Throughout his tenure serving the City of Northglenn, Mr. Esquibel has held numerous positions in city government, including Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, City Councilmember, Finance Committee member, and Adams County 12 School Board liaison. Mr. Esquibel was first elected to the City Council in 2015 where he served as the Ward 4 representative before being appointed to Mayor Pro Tem in 2017. He was then appointed Mayor in June of 2019 and proceeded to serve out the term before returning to his role as a Councilmember. As Councilmember

and Mayor, he has been a strong advocate and champion for education and mental health issues.

Mr. Esquibel's dedication to the Northglenn community follows a lifetime of public service in which he worked as a counselor in Adams 12 Five Star Schools and served our nation in the Army during the Vietnam War. Mr. Esquibel served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1974, ending his service with the rank of Sergeant. His service included time in Okinawa where he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation and the Good Conduct Medal (1st and 2nd Awards). His primary specialty was as a military police officer and secondary specialty was with the 11th Bravo Company as a Light Weapons Infantryman. In addition to his service to Northglenn and to our country, Mr. Esquibel is a loving husband to Dr. Deborah Esquibel Hunt and is a devoted father and grandfather.

While our state has been blessed with capable leadership throughout its history, few rise to the caliber and reputation of Mr. Esquibel. I wish Antonio Esquibel all the best in retirement and send gratitude for his service to the Northglenn community, the great State of Colorado, and the United States of America.

HONORING FIREFIGHTER MIKE
STANLEY

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Firefighter Mike Stanley for his 30 years of service with the Meyersdale Volunteer Fire Department in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Firefighters' commitment and service to our community are invaluable. Volunteer firefighters often are called on to respond to emergencies of all types. From battling structure fires to conducting search and rescue operations, volunteer firefighters respond immediately whenever disaster strikes. These heroes often go above and beyond—they teach first aid, educate students about fire and other dangerous hazards, and even install car safety seats for children. Through their diverse and often-difficult work, volunteer firefighters provide lifesaving services and are a staple of our local community.

Firefighter Stanley has worked throughout his career to serve the people of Somerset County. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank him for his work to protect life and property in our community and wish him continued health, safety, and success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, on Friday, May 14, 2021, I was unable to vote. Had I been present I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 143.